Export of foodgrains

3621. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to export wheat and rice from its bulging Central pool during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rates and the name of the countries to which it has been exported or proposed to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Wheat and Rice are being made available from the Central Pool for purposes of exports.

(c) Foodgrains are offered from the Central pool at the Open Market Sale Schemes (Domestic) prices. However, post-delivery and other WTO compatible expenses are allowed to exports. Indian foodgrains, so lifted from the Central Pool, are being exported to over 30 countries, mainly located in South East and South Asia, Middle East and Africa.

BPL families

3622. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the State Governments to restrict the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families for the purpose of supply of foodgrains under the food for work programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.